

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
WESTERN DIVISION AT DAYTON**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, : Case No. 3:22- cr-124-1

Plaintiff, :

vs. :

JOSHUA A HUGHES, :

Defendant. :

District Judge Michael J. Newman
Magistrate Judge Peter B. Silvain, Jr.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS¹

This case is before the Court on the parties' Joint Motion to Permit Change of Plea (Doc. #110) and the subsequent plea hearing, which was held on June 29, 2023. Assistant United States Attorney Dwight Keller appeared and represented the Government. Defendant was present at the hearing and was represented by Attorney Cheryll Bennett.

Prior to the hearing, the parties entered into a proposed binding plea agreement pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(C), which agreement has been filed of record. (Doc. #114). Under the terms of the plea agreement, Defendant agreed to plead guilty as charged in Counts 2, 5, and 6 of the Indictment currently pending against him, which charges him respectively with SNAP fraud in violation of 7 U.S.C. § 2024(b); conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute drugs in violation of 21 U.S.C. §846; and maintaining a drug premises in violation of 21 U.S.C. §856(a)(1).

During the plea hearing, the undersigned had the opportunity to address Defendant in open court and to inform Defendant of all rights and privileges as set forth in Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(b)(1). Further, the undersigned carefully inquired of Defendant regarding his understanding of the

¹ Attached is a NOTICE to the parties regarding objections to this Report and Recommendations.

agreement, as well as his competence to understand the agreement. Having fully inquired, the undersigned Judicial Officer finds that Defendant's tendered plea of guilty as charged in Counts 2, 5, and 6 of the Indictment was knowing, intelligent, and voluntary. Additionally, based upon the statement of facts, which were read into the record and affirmed by Defendant, the undersigned finds that there is a sufficient factual basis for finding that Defendant is in fact guilty of SNAP fraud in violation of 7 U.S.C. § 2024(b); conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute drugs in violation of 21 U.S.C. §846; and maintaining a drug premises in violation of 21 U.S.C. §856(a)(1).

Based upon the foregoing, it is **RECOMMENDED** that the District Court **GRANT** the parties' Joint Motion to Change Plea (Doc. #110) and **ACCEPT** Defendant's plea of guilty as charged in Counts 2, 5, and 6 of the Indictment currently pending against him and find him guilty as charged of SNAP fraud in violation of 7 U.S.C. § 2024(b); conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute drugs in violation of 21 U.S.C. §846; and maintaining a drug premises in violation of 21 U.S.C. §856(a)(1).

Pending the Court's acceptance of Defendant's guilty plea, Defendant has been referred to the Probation Department for a pre-sentence investigation and report.

June 30, 2023

s/Peter B. Silvain, Jr.

Peter B. Silvain, Jr.
United States Magistrate Judge

NOTICE REGARDING OBJECTIONS

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 59(b)(2), any party may serve and file specific, written objections to the proposed findings and recommendations within **FOURTEEN** days after being served with this Report and Recommendations. Such objections shall specify the portions of the Report objected to and shall be accompanied by a memorandum of law in support of the objections. If the Report and Recommendation is based in whole or in part upon matters occurring of record at an oral hearing, the objecting party shall promptly arrange for the transcription of the record, or such portions of it as all parties may agree upon or the Magistrate Judge deems sufficient, unless the assigned District Judge otherwise directs. A party may respond to another party's objections within **FOURTEEN** days after being served with a copy thereof.

Failure to make objections in accordance with this procedure may forfeit rights on appeal.

See Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140 (1985); *United States v. Walters*, 638 F.2d 947, 949-50 (6th Cir. 1981).